

The Name of the Flower

Ken Saito



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The Name of the Flower



THE

CURRENTLY

THE

...IT'S
HALF PAST
MIDNIGHT

THE

COMING
CRAZE



THE
STORY



...GOES
BACK TO THIS
MORNING.

CHAPTER 6

花の名前

The Name of the
Flower

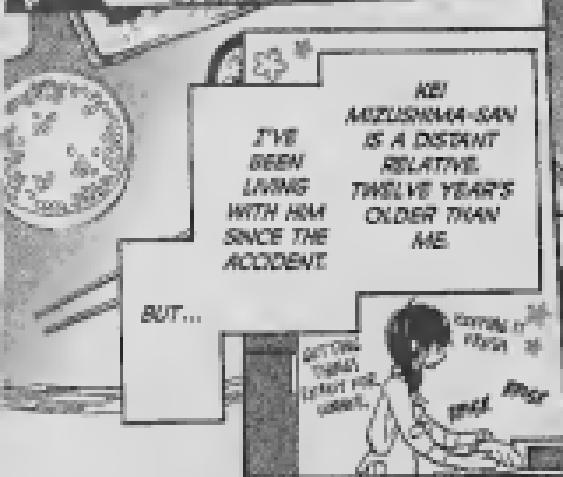




I AM
CHOKO
AZUISHIMA.

I'M A
SECOND-
YEAR IN
COLLEGE.

IT'S
ANOTHER
BEAUTIFUL
DAY.



I'VE
BEEN
LIVING
WITH HIM
SINCE THE
ACCIDENT.

BUT...

MEI
AZUISHIMA-SAN
IS A DISTANT
RELATIVE.
TWELVE YEARS
OLDER THAN
ME.



IT'S BEEN
THREE YEARS
SINCE I LOST MY
PARENTS IN AN
ACCIDENT.



TIME
TO EAT!

...FOR
ABOUT
THREE
DAYS
NOW

I
HAVEN'T
SEEN
KEI-SAN...

I'M
LONELY...

...THREE
DAYS
AGO...

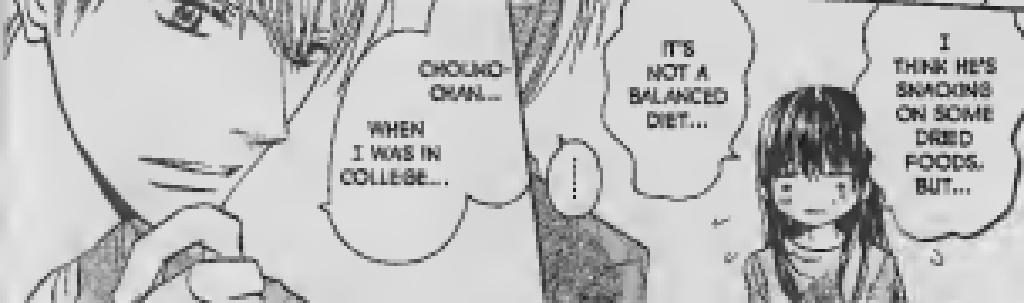
WILL YOU
BE DOWN
FOR DINNER
SOON?

KEI-
SANNN

CHANGING
OF AFTERNOON
TEA
WITH
KEI-SAN

ALL
BECAUSE...







...LOOK HIM
DIRECTLY
IN THE
EYES.

...I
JUST
CAN'T

RECENTLY,
I REALIZED
AGAIN HOW
MUCH I LOVE
KEI-SAN SINCE
THEN...

NOT
BEING
ABLE
TO SEE
KEI-SAN
...

...
ACTUALLY
HAS ME
A LITTLE
RELIEVED.

WHISPER

WHAT'LL
I DO...?

WE LIVE
TOGETHER
BUT WITH
THINGS THE
WAY THEY
ARE...

WHISPER



UH... UH!

GRAB!

!!!

RELEASE!

WAH!

SH-SHE'S
REALLY
CUTE!!

W- THAT IS... UM... WELL...
W- WOULD- WH-
SHEET TATCH
WHAT IS IT...?
WH-

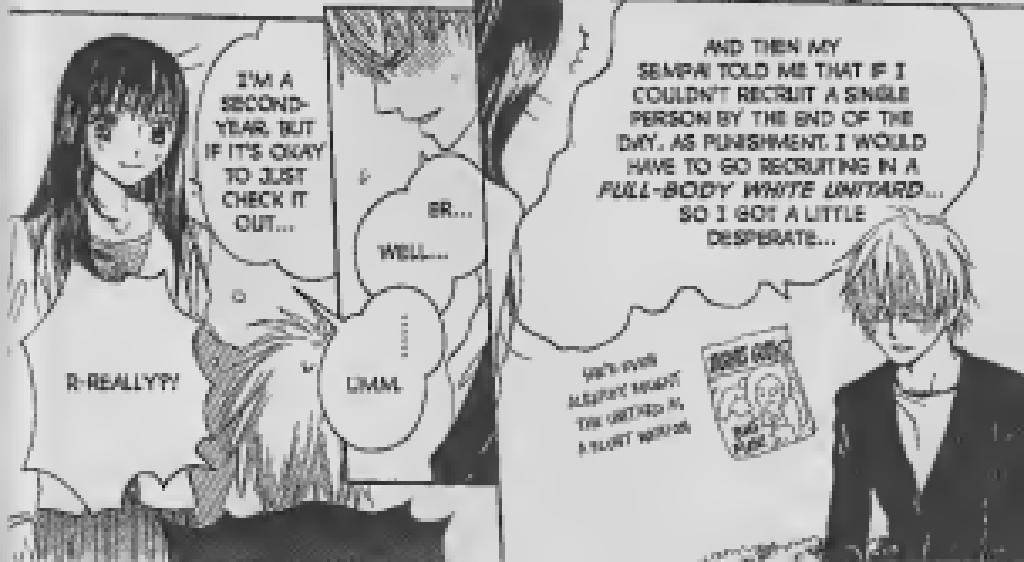
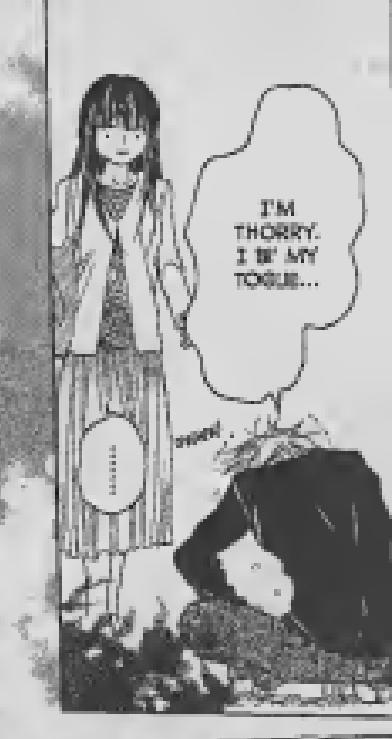
WOULD
YOU BE
INTERESTED
IN JOINING
A CLUB!

THE
FEAR FROM
LAST YEAR'S
RECRUITMENT.



WHAT'S THE
MATTER?





SARE
SEEMS
NICE...

WHW,

INCLUDING
ME, WE
ONLY
HAVE SIX
MEMBERS
RIGHT
NOW.

SO IF
YOU COULD
EVEN JUST STOP
BY OUR CLUB'S
ROOM WHEN
YOU HAVE
TIME...

OUR
CIRCLE
REALLY
IS VERY
SMALL.

I'M CHOUNG
MIZUSHIMA.

I'M YOUSUKE
KARASAWA.

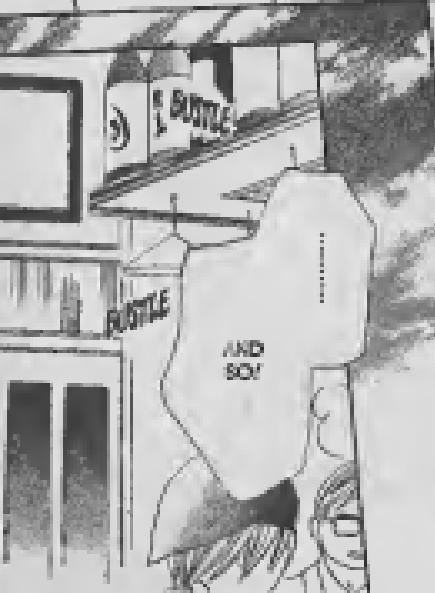
I'M A
SOPHOMORE,
TOO.

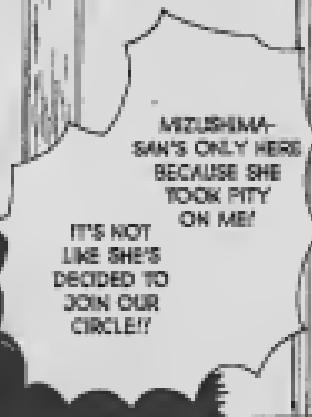
THANK
YOU

OH?
I'M--

KA CHAK







IT'S NOT
LIKE SHE'S
DECIDED TO
JOIN OUR
CIRCLE!!

REFINED YOUNG LADY...



SORRY.



BUTTER



WRITING

I CALLED HOME BUT
THERE WAS NO ANSWER

...SO
AS LONG
AS I'M NOT
OUT TOO
LATE...

ALL RIGHT,
PAA-SUKE!

THAT'S
ENOUGH
PURTING!

DO YOU
LIVE AT
HOME?

IS IT
OKAY
FOR YOU
TO STAY
OUT LIKE
THIS?

SHE'S SO
NICE...

WE
HAVE TWO
FOURTH-YEARS,
TOO, BUT THEY
ALMOST NEVER
SHOW UP.

UM, I'M
SORRY.

THIS GUY
IN THE
GOATEE
IS YUTAKA
KATOU.
A
THIRD-
YEAR.

THE GIRL
THERE
IS MIKO
KUREHOSHI.

...A
THIRD-
YEAR.

I'M
FUJKO
CHIDA. A
THIRD-
YEAR.

IT'S A
LITTLE LATE,
BUT LET US
INTRODUCE
OURSELVES.



[NOTE: TAISHO REFERS TO THE ERA FROM 1912 - 1926. A PERIOD THAT PRODUCED A LOT OF FAMOUS WRITERS AND LITERATURE.]

CLII

TO THE
"TAISHO
AUTHORS
ASSOCIATION"
CHEERS!!

LINK

TAISHO
AUTHORS
ASSOCIATION...?"

WRITING



CHAPTER 6

THE CLUB CHAPTER
I WAS IN A GUITAR
CIRCLE WHEN I WAS
IN COLLEGE. NOT
ELECTRIC GUITAR,
BUT AN ACOUSTIC
ONE LIKE KOUSETSU
MIRAMI USES. ED.
NOTE: KOUSETSU
MIRAMI IS A FAMOUS
JAPANESE FOLK
SINGER. I NEVER
GOT GOOD AT
PLAYING THE GUITAR
AND ONLY LEARNED
HOW TO DRINK
ALCOHOL. BUT I ONLY
REBELLIED IT A LITTLE.
ALSO, MY EDITOR
CHANGED AFTER
I WROTE THIS CHAPTER.
MY FORMER EDITOR
HELPED ME OUT A LOT
SINCE EVEN BEFORE
MY DEBUT. AND IS
A WONDERFUL,
BEAUTIFUL,
AMIDENLY
GANG LEADER WHO
IMMEDIATELY CALLED
YOUJIKE "PA-SUKE"
AND CALLS ME "THIS
FROWNY FACE."

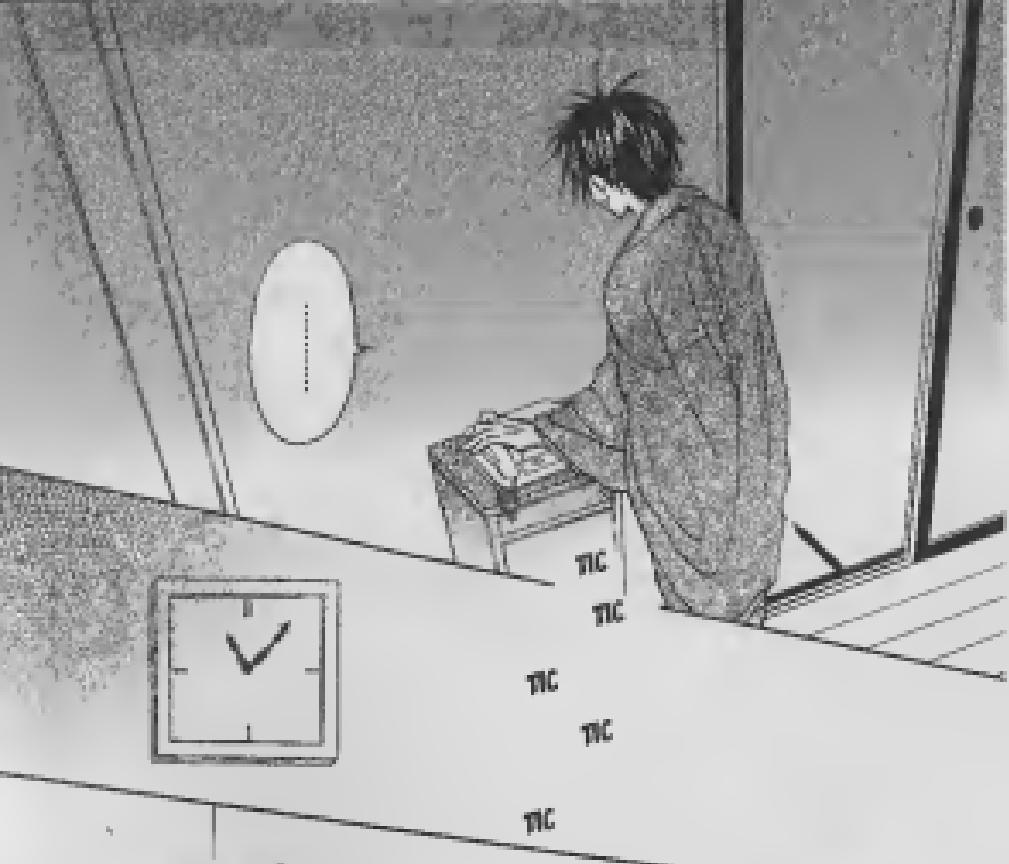


THANK
YOU















KEI-SAN...

H...

YOU
SMELL LIKE
ALCOHOL.

DAMMIT.

DAMMIT
PI





THE
NEXT
DAY...

IT
WAS A GOOD
OPPORTUNITY,
SO...

YES.

WELL...
I
DIDN'T HAVE
ANY REASON
TO OBJECT.

I'M
SURPRISED
THIS STUBBORN
OLD MAN OF
YOURS LET
YOU DO IT.

CHOUNO-
CHAN...

I
HEAR YOU
JOINED A
CLUB.

WHAT
KIND OF
CLUB?

HE'S
SUCH AN
IDIOT.

AH...

A
NEW
TERM...

THE
FLOWERS
SWAY IN THE
WIND.

IT'S THE
BEGINNING
OF A NEW
SEASON.

A CLUB
WHERE THERE
ARE A LOT OF
ANONYMOUS-GANS...

DAH
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!

WHAT?

花
火
ア
ル
ル

The Newgate's
Flower

CHAPTER 1



IN
THE
WARM
SPRING
SUN
LIGHT

I
NOTICED...

THAT
SOMETHING

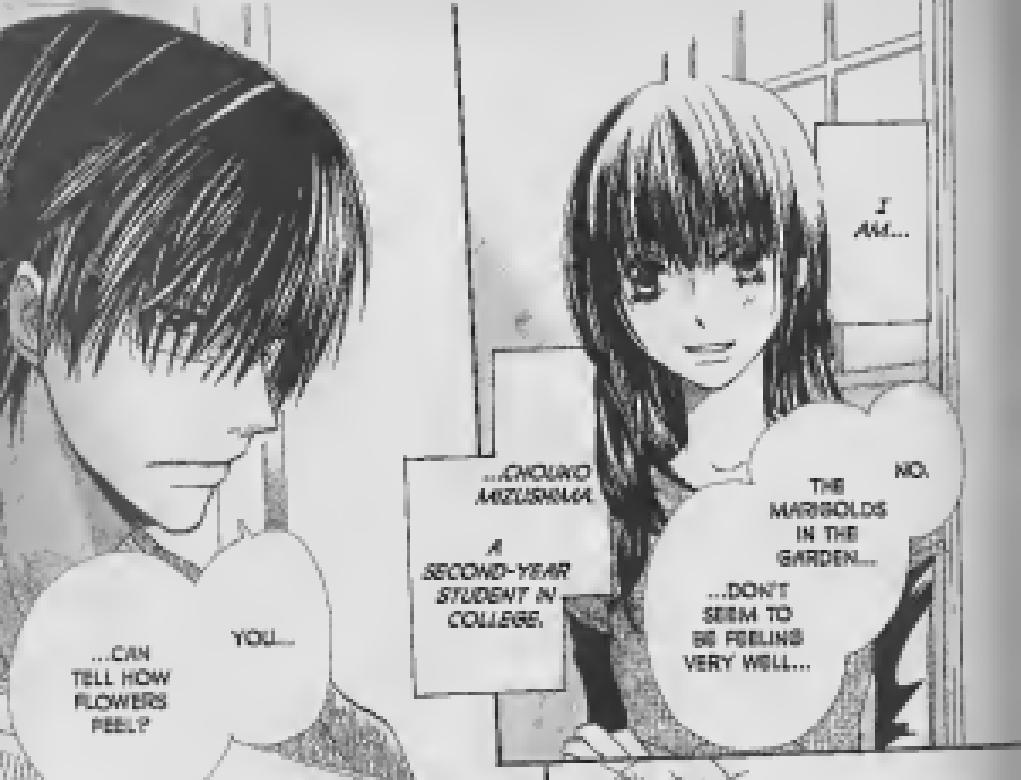
...SEEMED
A BIT
OFF.

OHOU.

WAS
THERE
...
SOMETHING
GOING ON
OUTSIDE?

AH...
RIGHTY

IF YOU
DON'T HURRY
AND MAKE
BREAKFAST,
YOU'LL BE
LATE FOR
SCHOOL.





IT'S
FINE.

I'LL
CLEAN
IT UP
YOU GO TO
SCHOOL.

IF
YOU HAVE A
PROBLEM, THEN
WOULD YOU
PLEASE TELL
ME?

CHOU...

BUT...

IT'S NOT
ANYTHING...

...LIKE
THAT...





THIS
IS THE
RIGHT
PLACE,
RIGHT?

COMING
UP

ROCK
ROCK







BUT IT
WON'T DO
ANY GOOD TO
EXPLAIN IT IN
WORDS.

BASICALLY...

MITTLE

MITTLE

BY THE
WAY...

WE
CAN USE
THIS ROOM
HOWEVER WE LIKE,
AND SOMETIMES
WE GO OUT
DRINKING AS
A CLUB

...AND,
WELL,
THERE ARE
A LOT OF
THINGS.

AS
FOR THE
PURPOSES
OF OUR CIRCLE...

...IT'S TO
STUDY JAPANESE
CULTURE THROUGH
LITERATURE, TO
CULTIVATE EACH
OTHERS' PLENTIFUL
HUMANITY AS
FELLOW CLUB
MEMBERS...

THERE
ARE SO
MANY!!

BECAUSE
WE GET
MORE EVERY
GENERATION.

OUR UPPER-
CLASSMEN
DONATE THEM
WHEN THEY
LEAVE.

YOU CAN
BORROW
WHATEVER
BOOKS YOU WANT
FROM THESE
SHELVES!







CHAPTER 7

PART 1

I WROTE THIS CHAPTER RIGHT WHEN THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE NAME OF THE FLOWER GRAPHIC NOVELS WENT ON SALE, SO I USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO CALL MY MOTHER FROM TOKYO USING A PORTABLE VIDEO PHONE TO COME OUT AND TELL HER I'M A MANGA ARTIST. WHEN I DID, APPARENTLY SHE HAD BEEN READING MY OLDER SISTER'S LALA DX AMBASSADEURS (THE MAGAZINE IN WHICH THE NAME OF THE FLOWER IS PUBLISHED) AND LIKED THE NAME OF THE FLOWER. SHE WAS SURPRISED, LIKE "HMP, YOU WRITE THAT?" WHEN I MADE THE CALL, I WAS AS NERVOUS AS IF I WAS JUMPING OFF KYOMIZU STAGE, BUT IN THE END, WHEN I HUNG UP, I FELT LIKE HITO KONOMI. (KOREI KYOMIZU STAGE IS A PLATFORM AT KYOMIZU TEMPLE, BUILT ON A HILLTOP, SO IT'S EDGE IS VERY FAR FROM THE GROUND. JUMPING OFF OF IT WOULD BE A VERY SCARY THING TO DO. HITO KONOMI IS THE HERO OF A JAPANESE HISTORICAL DRAMA, AMONG OTHER THINGS.)

ON TO PART 2

— I GOT A CALL FROM NORIUCHI-SAN IN THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

*I'LL
TAKE IT TO
HER...!!*

HER
THER-
MOS...

AH...
CHOUKO-CHAN
LEFT HER
LUNCHBOX
HERE.

SHE
DOES
NOT
BETRAY
EXPEC-
TAC-
TIONS...

ANY
TH--
THAT?

THE
OTHER
DAY...

SAYING,
"I'M LOOKING
FORWARD TO
OUR HOT
SPRINGS
TRIP."

BUT
I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
THAT WAS
ABOUT.

WHEN I
ASKED...

I WAS
TOLD YOU'RE
GOING ON A
COMPANY TRIP
TO HAKONE...

...AND THAT
I'M JOINING
YOU...

APPARENTLY
MY BEST
FRIEND HAD
DECLARED
IT.

JOCT

KEL...

LOOK
UP AT ME,
AKIYAMA.

I
CAN'T
PLAY
ROCK-
PAPER-
SCISSORS.
RE-
MEMBER?

IT WOULD
SEEM THAT THERE
IS SOMEONE IN YOUR
COMPANY CALLING
HIMSELF MY BEST
FRIEND.

...YES...











**LIBRARY
LOVER**

IT'S
SO
ELABORATELY...

THIS
ONE'S
NICE!

LIBRARY

CREAK...

OOHHH
...



ON

CHAPTER 7 PART 2

MY MOTHER MUST HAVE REALLY BEEN SURPRISED; SHE CAME TO TOKYO TO CONFIRM THAT I REALLY AM HER SAIKO. I WAS A LITTLE SCARED. SHE SAID STRANGELY ASTUTE THINGS LIKE, "I WAS A FAN OF CHOU-CHAN..." "AKIYAMA-SAN IS A NICE PERSON, ISN'T SHE?" "KEI-SAN'S DARKNESS IS DEEP. I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN DRAW IT PROPERLY," AND WENT HOME. I REALIZED HOW GLAD I AM TO HAVE BECOME A MANGA ARTIST.



...LOVE THIS LIBRARY...!!

THE CHARS.
THE WINDOW FRAMES...
SUCH GOOD TASTE!
SO MODERN!

AND THE BOOKS ARE
IN SUCH GOOD ORDER. AND SO
WELL-KEPT.

AND
MORE THAN
ANYTHING,
IT'S SO
QUIET!







THIS IS MORTIFYING...

EHHH?

CONWARD

LUCKY...
HE'S CHECKING OUT SO MANY BOOKS...

(PUP)
(MUF)
MAYBE I CAN ASK THE LIBRARIAN?

NO.
BUT IF I REALLY CAN'T THEN I'D ONLY BE BOthering HER...

I BET I CAN'T CHECK ANYTHING OUT UNLESS I'M FROM HERE.

BUT THEY HAVE SO MANY BOOKS I WANT TO READ...!

NO.
THAT'S OKAY.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BORROW A BAG FOR SENSEI? THESE...

A--

A TAISHO
AUTHOR...?!!

MML
... THESE
ARE DUE
BACK ON
THE 18TH.

BHF
AHU
NO...
ARE YOU
CHECKING
THESE
OUT?

IN THIS DAY
AND AGE WHEN
PEOPLE HAVE
PORTABLE PHONES,
THERE'S NO WAY
THERE WOULD BE A
PERSONAGE SO BOLDLY
WEARING A KIMONO,
CHECKING OUT
BOOKS IN A
LIBRARY...!!

C-CALM
DOWN.
YOU LIKED





... BLOOMING SO
BEAUTFULLY.

AND
YOU'RE
RUNNING
AWAY?

KEL...

UN-
BELIEVABLE







DEEPLY MOVED





KARASHA-SAN
MIGHT BE

...A
LITTLE...

...LIKE
ME...

WELL...

I'M
TERRIBLY
SORRY
TO HAVE
STAYED...

NO, NO,
IT'S NO
TROUBLE
AT ALL.

...FOR
SO
LONG.





...NOW WE'RE EVEN.

BUT
YOU LIKE
SUDENLY
JUMPING
ON ME.
SO...

TO BE
HONEST, MY
MEMORIES
ARE VAGUE...

AH.

BLUSH

I
HUGGED
YOU
DIDN'T
IT?

EVEN IF

WH...

WHAT...

...ARE YOU
APOLOGIZING
FOR?

I...

...WASN'T...



KOI-SAN
SMILED....

...TO
HEAR ANY
MORE.

...AS IF
REFUSING
...

IN THE
RUSTLING
OF THE
WARM
WIND....

FOR
THE
FIRST
TIME
...

I...

LET
FLOWERS
WILT....

The Name of the Flower

花の名前

CHAPTER 8



OH...

THIS IS
PROBABLY A
DISEASE...

...THEY
CAUGHT
FROM
SOME
BUGS.

I HAVE
SOME GOOD
MEDICINE. I'LL
GIVE YOU
SOME.

REALLY?

REALLY?
I DON'T
THINK IT'S
A DISEASE.
IT'S PROBABLY
A BUG.

OF
COURSE!

FOR YOU,
CHOUKO-CHAN,
I WOULD
GO...

...THOUGH
FIRE,
THROUGH
WATER...

CHOU

I
SEE.

I WAS
SURPRISED.
THEY WILTED SO
SUDDENLY.

IT'S NOT
YOUR FAULT,
CHOUKO-
CHAN!



...I JOINED
A CIRCLE
CALLED THE
"BISHO
AUTHORS
ASSOCIA
TION."

OH.

CHOUKO-
CHAN!!

GOOD
DAY...

CHICK

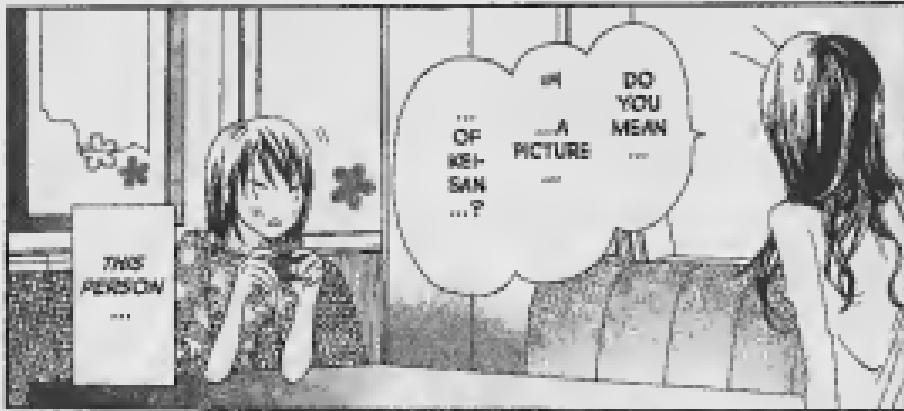
THE
OTHER
DAY...

PRESS

...TO TAKE
A PICTURE
FOR ME!

I
WANT
YOU...

A
PICTURE?



MIZUSHIMA
SENSEI'S
AUTOGRAPH
FOR ME!

I
WOULD
LIKE
YOU TO
GET...

AH!

CHOUNG-
CHAN!!

...THAT
KEI-SAN...

IS VERY
POPULAR...

MAN...

KEI
MIZUSHIMA

I
LOVE HIS
WORK.

HE'S
ALWAYS
SAID.

IT
IS SO!

IS
THAT
SO?

WHAT?





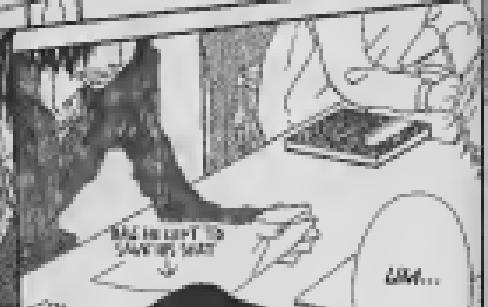
HUFF

UH...

MAY
I...

MAKE
A LITTLE
MISCHIEF
WITH
YOU... PI!

-PI





CHAPTER 8

PART 1

I WAS SO BUSY WITH THINGS THAT I KEPT SAYING I WAS GOING TO GO HOME, BUT I JUST COULDN'T GET BACK TO MY FAMILY. BUT AFTER I DREW THIS CHAPTER, I WENT HOME FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS. WHEN I GOT THERE, MY OLDER BROTHER AND SISTER, WHO ARE TWINS, SAID, "YOU NEVER CAME HOME, SO WE DREW PICTURES PREDICTING WHAT YOU LOOKED LIKE." AND THE TWO OF THEM HAD PAPER WITH WEIRD PICTURES DRAWN ON THEM, AND THEY ARGUED ABOUT WHOSE PICTURE LOOKED MORE LIKE ME. WHEN I SAW IT, I REALLY FELT, "OH, I'M HOME."

ON TO PART 2...







K--

KEI-SA...!

EEP!

I
THOUGHT
HE'D BEEN
SHOT...

HE'S JUST
SLEEPING...?

Zzzz
Zzzz

GOF

EXCUSE
ME FOR
MOVING
YOUR
HEAD...

KEI-SAN...



I
FEEL
LIKE
KEI-SAN...

...IS
GETTING
MORE
AND MORE
UNINVITED.

DID I
WAKE Y---

I'M
SORRY.

OH!

NH...

GUU...

HEAD
OF STONE

ON

S-

SORRY.

WHAM!

OW!

WHAT'S...

—WITH
YOUR
HAIR?

TAKI
REALLY
ART.

WE'RE
DOOMED

DEMON?!

WE
HAVE A
GUEST.

MY— MY
SAMPY IN
CLUB.../

IT'S
NOT LIKE
THAT.../

N-NO!

IT GETS
LONGER AND
SHORTER.

IT'S
LIKE SOME
KIND OF
DEMON.

DE--

CHAPTER 8 PART 2

WHEN I WAS AT HOME, MY MOTHER ASKED ME TO SIGN SOME GRAPHIC NOVELS AND DRAW LITTLE SKETCHES. BUT IN ONE OF THEM I ACCIDENTALLY COLORED AKIYAMA'S HAIR BLACK, AND I PANICKED. I HEARD LATER THAT THEY WERE ACTUALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT, SO I WAS RELIEVED. BUT THE NEW DISCOVERY WAS MADE THAT, WITH BLACK HAIR, AKIYAMA BECOMES A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON. ALSO, THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO DRAW PICTURES OF ME IN THEIR LETTERS, AND IT MAKES ME STRANGELY HAPPY. A LOT OF PEOPLE ASK ME, "WHAT IS THAT?" BUT UM, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT TOO MUCH.



THAT SURPRISED ME...

RITTER RITTER

DEMON

HELLO!

AKIYAMA
HERE!
I BROUGHT
MY THINGS TO
STAY THE NIGHT
AND A PRESENT!

SILLY

RITTER
RITTER

AKIYAMA

HERE!









THEY'RE STORIES THAT DIG INTO YOUR HEART MERTELLESSLY...

...LIKE A STRING RIGHT BEFORE IT SNAPS.

BUT...

PEOPLE WHO WERE LIKE, "KEI KITAHARA IS THE BEAST!" FOLLOWED HIM AROUND EVERYWHERE. KEI HATED IT THAT KITAHARA KID WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO THEM.

RELIGIOUSLY...?

WHEN THAT ONE CAME OUT THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO BELIEVED IN IT RELIGIOUSLY.



WHA—??

TALKING ABOUT ME LIKE I'M A STALKER!

PRESNT TENSE??

YOU'RE THE MOST REPULSIVE.

GULP!



YOU WERE THE WORST OF THE LOT...





IN THE END, THEY TOUCHED UP A PHOTO FROM WHEN HE WAS IN AFRICA AND USED THAT.

CHARITY
THE
African
Child
Fund

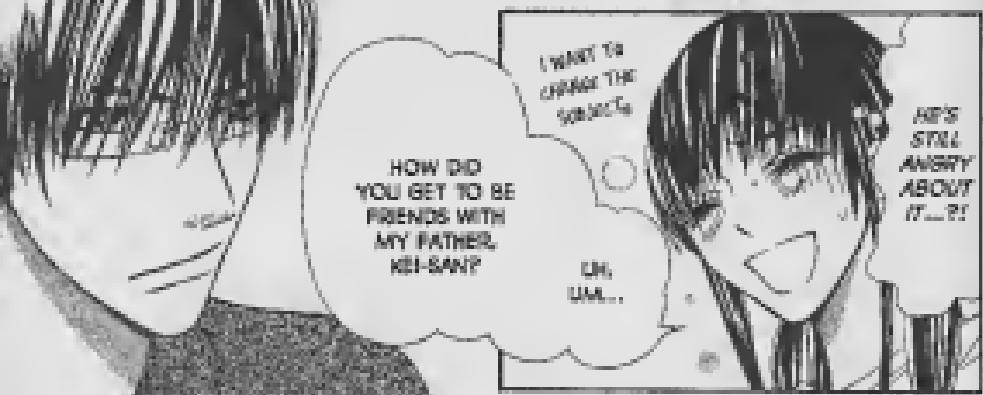


COME TO THINK OF IT...

...MY FATHER HATED PICTURES, TOO.









...TAKING
CARE OF HIM.
SHE'S VERY
CAPABLE.

...HAS A
FRIEND OF
HIS. A LADY
NAMED
SHIMA-
SAN...

...MY
GRAND-
FATHER...

SHIMA-
SAN...

...CALLS
ME...

...TO
TELL ME
HOW HE'S
DOING.

HE'S
IN STABLE
CONDITION.

AND
SO...

UM...



WELL...
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT....

YOU
CAN JUST
GO WHEN
YOU WANT
TO.





THUMP

EEEEEHHH!

WHAM

WHACK!

CARRY
REFUSE



...AND
WHAT IT'S
LIFE.

I'M
SURE...

...KEL-
SAN



...MEMORIES
OF LONELINESS.

THEY
BRUSH
OVER MY
HEART.
LIKE THE
WIND.



OVER...



...AND
OVER...

THE
NEXT
DAY
...

IS
THIS...

THAT
WOMAN
COMES OUT
OF THE
WELL...

THAT
VIDEO—
THE ONE
WHERE IF YOU
SEE IT, YOU
DIE A WEEK
LATER...?

I'M
SORRY...

THAT'S
THE
WORK
OF A
PRO...

WHO'S THIS
GOOD-LOOKING
GUY WHO'S ALWAYS
LOOKING RIGHT AT
THE CAMERA AND
MATTER WHAT KIND
OF CRAZY ANGLE
THE PICTURE IS
FROM?!

HEY,
HEY,
CHOUNGO-
CHAN.

DID YOU
EXPLAIN
THAT IT
WON'T
STEAL HIS
SOUL?

HMMHMM.
HMMHMM.
WELL,
THEY'RE
VAGUE...
THAT'S A
DRAMA



...I
GET THE
FEELING...

...THERE'S
GOING
TO BE
TROUBLE.

ACHOO!

WE'RE
GOING
TO SNEAK
A LOOK
AT HIM!

I
CALL
IT...

...OUR KEI-
AKIZUSHIMA-
SEEDS
TOWARD!

KAAAAA!

SOOME-
HOW...

BAAA!

DON'T
TELL...

...SENSEI

OOONH
? !

OUR
CUPPAW

花火の前

CHAPTER 3

The Name of the
Flower



THE
SEASON
WHERE
THE WIND
SHINES...

GOOD
MORNING.

GOOD
MORNING,
CHOUKO-
CHAN!

THE
PERFECT
DAY FOR
A TRIP.

BLUE
SKY...

...WHITE
CLOUDS...

AOYAMA-
SAN
AND REI-
SAN...

IS REI
AWAKE?





SNAP

NH.

AKIYAMA-SAN
IS HERE.

PINTER

...ARE
GOING TO
KAKOME...

...FOR THE
EDITORIAL
DEPART-
MENT'S
TRIP



LET'S GET
SONG.

ARE
YOU STILL
MAD THAT
I TREATED
YOU LIKE
A VARIETY
ACT...?

KEI-
SAN...



YOU
LOOK LIKE
A NORMAL
PERSON

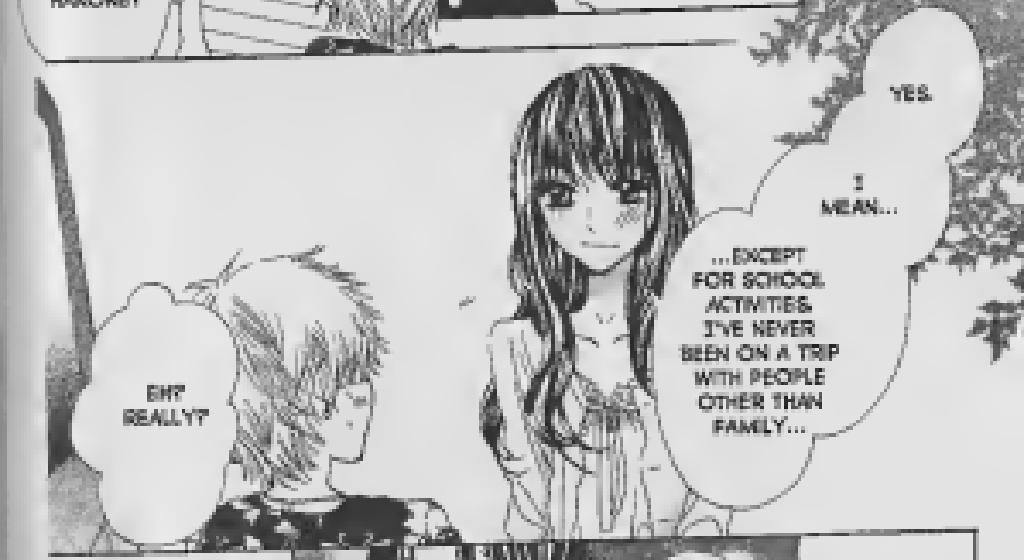
WH-WH-
WHAT'S THE
MATTER??

K-

KEI-SAN...







CHAPTER 9

WHEN I WAS DRAWING THIS CHAPTER, I WALKED THREE MINUTES TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE IN THE POURING RAIN, AND WHEN I CAME BACK OUT, I WAS SHOCKED TO FIND MY UMBRELLA STOLEN. SMALL MISFORTUNES LIKE THESE VISIT ME A LOT. I THINK I'M PROBABLY A LITTLE UNLUCKY. IF IT WAS ONLY ME, I COULD DEAL WITH IT, BUT I DON'T WANT TO TROUBLE OTHERS, SO I'VE TOLD MY CLOSE FRIENDS IN ADVANCE, "IF WE'RE EVER IN A SITUATION WHERE THERE'S A TIME BOMB AND YOU HAVE TO CUT EITHER THE RED WIRE OR THE BLACK WIRE, CUT THE OPPOSITE COLOR OF THE ONE I TELL YOU."



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
YOU!



THREE
HOURS
LATER...

OH! THE AIR IS DELICIOUS!

WE MEET UP WITH OUR UPPERCASSMEN AT FOUR...

—SO YOU'RE FREE TO DO WHATEVER UNTIL THEN!

WE'RE IN HAKONE!

CLAP CLAP CLAP

REALLY?
THOSE TWO ARE DATING, AFTER ALL!

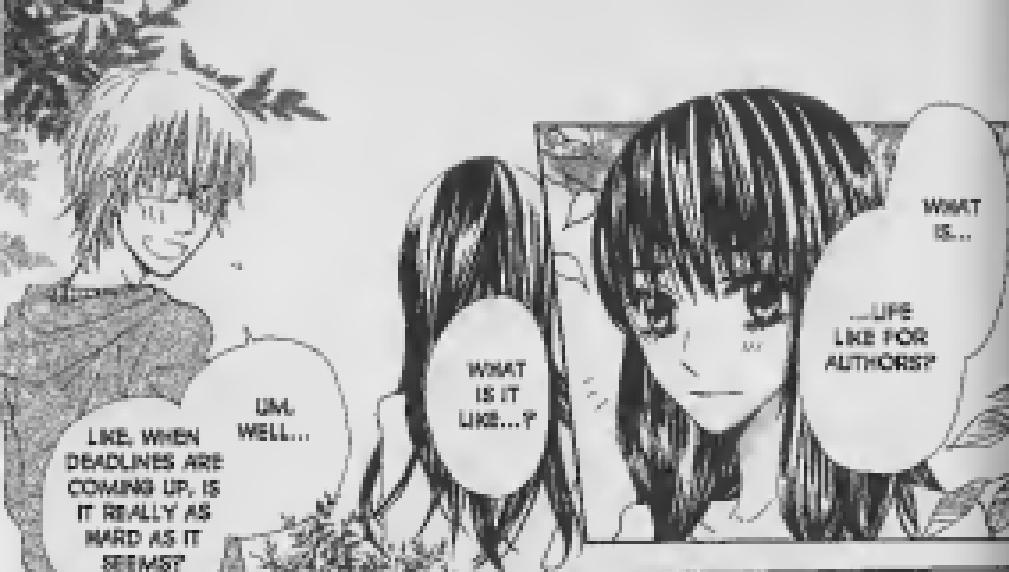
WELL SEE YOU LATER!

WELL THEN...

HUH?









...IF
I DO
SEE HIM,
IT MIGHT
BOTHER
HIM.

I
WONDER
WHAT
HE'LL LOOK
HAVE ON
HIS FACE.

KER-SAN.

EXCUSE
ME!

HE'S
GOING ON
A TRIP...

BUT
SUDDENLY
HE HATES
GOING FAR
AWAY.

THAT
SMILE.







THANK
YOU FOR
HELPING
ME.



YOU
SHOULDN'T

...HATE
YOURSELF.

PWAH



YANK!

YOU'RE
WELL...
COMEDY

Y-

AH...

DISCOVERING
AN UNKNOWN
WORLD OF SUGAR
AND SPICE
REMEMBERED
SWEETNESS
FROM BEFORE
DARKNESS

1
2PM
SOMEONE
CAME OUT WITH
FRESH COOKIES.
YOU MADE
COOKIES?
I'M SO HUNGRY.

2
THE MINUTE I
STARTED BAKING,
HE SAID,
"TOKIO..."
AND LEFT.
WHY?

3
"YOU'RE
SO TERRIBLE
BEHIND YOU."
HE'S LIKE
A BUG WITH A REPULSION CIRCLE.
"I DON'T WANT
TO GET BITTEN."









YOU'RE
NOT GOING
TO JOIN THE
BANQUET?

BANDOU-
SAN.

...WITH ANI/MARU-
KUN. WATCH-
ING YOUR
COMEDY
ROUTINE...

I HAD
A LOT
OF FUN
TODAY.

I'M SORRY,
BUT YOU TALKED
MUCH TOO MUCH

YOU
REALLY
ARE SO
LIKE
YOU.

I'VE
GIVEN UP
ALCOHOL.

DOES
THAT MEAN
HE WAS THERE
WHEN YOU
WENT
CRAZY?

YOU
WERE
FRIENDS
SINCE
COLLEGE.

I DIDN'T
KNOW YOU
HAD A FRIEND
LIKE THAT.
MIZUSHIMA-
KUN.

HE'S
NOT
REALLY



A
SENSE
OF HATE
THAT MAKES
ONE WANT
TO TRAMPLE
ALL OVER
IT...

...AND
A PURITY
THAT'S
ALMOST
SACRED...

BLENDED
BRILLIANTLY
WITHIN INSANITY
AND THE
SOLITUDE AT
ITS ROOT

...ACTUALLY,
I REALLY
LOVED YOUR
DEBUT
WORK.

MAY
I...

...BE
A BIT
FRANK
WITH
YOU?

I FELT
SORRY FOR
YOU.

—HARD
TO LIVE
KEEPING SUCH
DARKNESS
INSIDE YOU

I
THOUGHT
IT MUST
SURELY
BE...



LIKE THAT WAS THE PERFECTED FORM OF YOUR WAY OF LIFE.

...YOU SEEMED CHARMING THAT WAY.

BUT SOMEHOW...

...I SAID ALL KINDS OF THINGS TO GET YOU TO WRITE AGAIN.
WHEN YOU STOPPED WRITING TEN YEARS AGO...

IT REALLY IS A WONDERFUL THING.

NO...

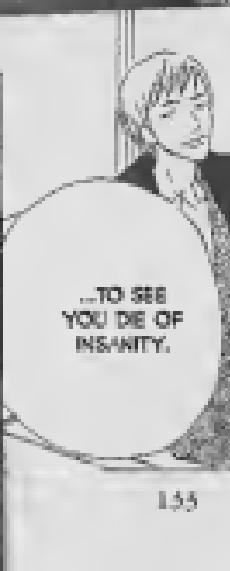
...THAT YOUNG MAN WOULD EVER BE ABLE TO SPELL OUT THE SADNESS OF LOSING A LOVED ONE.

TO THINK THAT...



I'VE BEEN WONDERING...

ARE YOU...



...TO SEE YOU DIE OF INSANITY.



...JUST WANTED...





RECENTLY

...NO
MATTER...

...WHAT
I DO...

THE
BREAKS...

I
WISH I'D
NEVER
WRITTEN
THAT!

DONE
SOMETHING SO
DEPLORABLE...
I
GUESS
IT'S TOO
LATE.

NO...
NOW
THAT
I'VE...

PAY THE
WORST.

MASS
OF
POSSES-
SIVENESS.

THIS
TERRIBLY
SELFISH...

IT'S NOT
LOVE.

IT'S NOT
ANYTHING
THAT
GRAND.

IT'S
JUST...

I JUST
CAN'T QUITE
THROW IT
OUT.

MEI-
SAN...?

BUTTU



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING IN
HAKONE?

CHOUKO-
CHAN.









I'M
MIZUSHIMA. A
RELATIVE OF
CHOUKO'S.





OZAKI?
MIYOSHIT?
IBUSE?
AOYASU?
YASUNARI?

AKUTAGAWA?
YONOMITSU?
DAZAI?
KUCHIKI?
KAWABATA?

WHO'S YOUR
FAVORITE
TAISHO
AUTHOR?



WAAAHH!
WAAAHH!

THE
NICE



(NOT APPROVED)

BATTLE
BATTLE
BATTLE

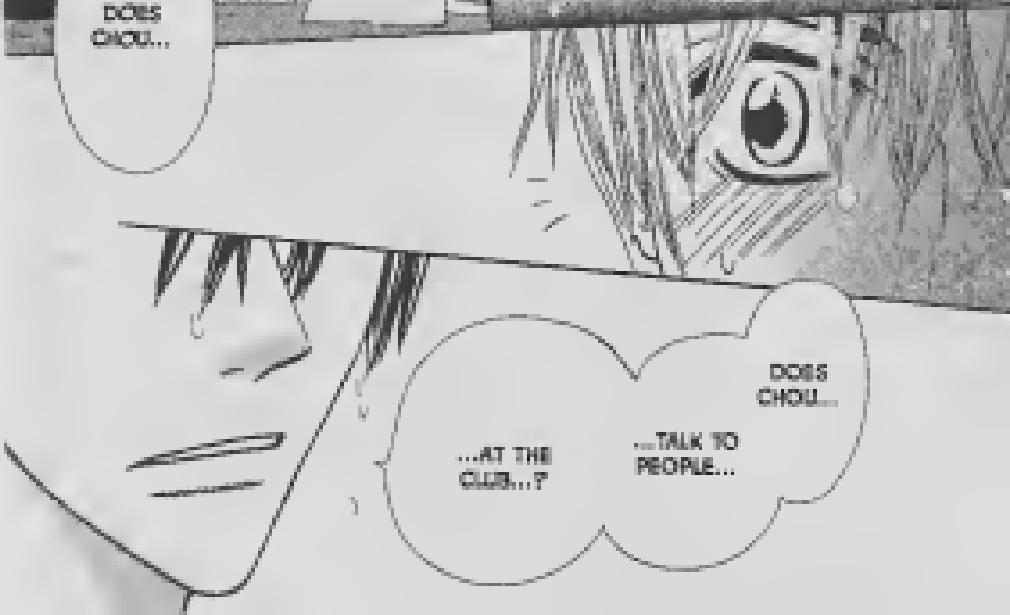
HE
LOOKS
SUPER
UNHAPPY
...!!

UNHAPPY

SPLASH

GLANCE

EXCUSE
ME...





WHETHER
SHE'S
TALKING
OR NOT.

IT'S
NOT THE
WAY...

SHE
LOOKS OR
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.
BUT...

...SHE'S
KIND OF...

...I
FEEL
CALMER.

IT'S
LIKE,
JUST
WITH HER
BEING
THERE...

WHAT AM I SAYING?

FORGET
WHAT
I JUST
SAID...

I'M
SORRY!

I
THINK
...

REALLY
LOVELY
PERSON.

SHE'S
A...



YOU
CAN'T HAVE
HER, YOU
KNOW.

SHE'S
IN LOVE
WITH
ME.

SPLASH

SPLASH





THE
NEXT
D.Y...



...WILL
BE
ONE...

...WE'LL
NEVER
FORGET.

HOOOAH

WE COULDN'T
MATCH UP TO THAT
MAKA'S LITERARY
KNOWLEDGE...!!

SHUT

OUR
TRIP...

...TO
HAKONE...

YOU ONLY
HAVE A FEW
DAYS BEFORE
YOU LEAVE
JAPAN.

TOKYO?

WHY?

WILL
YOU TAKE
CARE OF THINGS
WHILE I'M
GONE?

I'VE
FINISHED
ALL MY
WORK
HERE.

I'LL BE
BACK IN A
WEEK.

I DON'T
MIND...

...SORRY

...BUT
WHAT'S
GOING
ON...

...OH,
YOU
KNOW.

The Name of the
Flower

花の名前

CHAPTER 10

L
E





IT'S
BEEN THREE
DAYS...



WRITING



WRITING

WRITING

...FOLLOWED
HIM WITHOUT
ASKING?

IS
HE MAD
THAT
I...

WHAT
IS

...KEP-SAN
THINKING?



BUT THAT PA-SURE
WON'T LET US
SEE ANY
OF IT.
SHE'S IN
HAKONE.

THAT'S
WHY HE
WAS ASKING
ABOUT BEING
A WRITER...

WOW...

AND
I THINK
HE'S WRITING A
BUNCH OF HIS
OWN STUFF,
TOO.

BUT
WE'D REALLY
POUND HIM
INTO SHAPE.

P-
P-O-U-N-D-
P

F-I-G-H-T-

BUT IF HE
NEVER SHOWS
ANYONE,
HE'LL NEVER
IMPROVE,
RIGHT?

BUT
HE'S THE
TIMID AND
COWARDLY
ONE SO
THERE'S
NOTHING
WE CAN DO
ABOUT
IT.

IS
THAT
TRUE??

Well,
in the end,
it didn't help
at all. That is
extremely
unusual.

HE SAID
HE WAS DOING
HIS BEST SO AS
NOT TO HAVE A
REPEAT OF OUR
WELCOMING
PARTY!

EHT

...HE
HARDLY
DRANK AT ALL
FOR YOUR SAKE,
CHOUKO-CHAN.

OH,
COME
TO THINK
OF IT...

...WHEN
WE WERE IN
HAKONE, THAT
PA-SURE...

CHAPTER 10 PART 1

WHILE I WAS DRAWING THIS CHAPTER, MY TV BROKE, MY STEREO BROKE, MY MINI-DISC WALKMAN BROKE, AND THE ROOM GOT MORE AND MORE SILENT. AND, WHILE I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF DRAWING THE ROUGH DRAFT, MY FLUORESCENT LAMP FINALLY BURNED OUT. I LIVE IN A ONE-ROOM APARTMENT. I CURLED UP IN MY FUTON, SHIVERING ALL NIGHT, THINKING, "WHO'S TO BLAME AT MY FOR STAYING SHUT INSIDE?" BUT BY THE TIME THE SUN CAME UP, I HAD REACHED THE LOGICAL CONCLUSION THAT "I CONSUME A LOT OF ELECTRICITY BECAUSE I'M ALWAYS INSIDE" AND DECIDED TO GO BUY NEW FLUORESCENT LIGHTS.

ON TO PART 2



I'M
COMING
IN!

...IT'S
OPEN...

DING-DONG-DING
DONG-DONG-DONG
DING-DONG-DONG
DONG-DONG-DONG
DONG

DING-DOOONG
DING-DOOON
DING-DONG
DING-DONG

WRITING

SCIIIIIDE

RIP!

KEL.

YOU...

WAH!!

FILTHY!!



I'M
SUCH
A HAP-
PY PERSON.
BUT, WELL,
I THINK
WE SHOULD
CONSIDER
CHOUNG-
CHAN'S
PREFERENCES,
TOO...

I
FLAGGED
THE ONES I
RECOMMEND
THE MOST.
I
KNOW.

MY
IDEAS

I
DON'T
CARE IF
IT'S...

...EXPENSIVE,
AS LONG AS
IT MEETS THE
CONDITIONS.

I SEE.

I'LL TELL
HER WHEN
SHE GETS
HOME.

MAYBE
TODAY.

WHEN
ARE YOU
GOING
TO TELL
HER?

...NOT
POSTPONED
A LITTLE.
THAT'S
ALL.

IT
JUST...

...THE
AGREEMENT
WAS THAT SHE
WOULD LEAVE THE
HOUSE WHEN SHE
GRADUATED HIGH
SCHOOL.

ORIGINALLY...

I HAD
BEEN
THINKING
ABOUT
HER SO
MUCH...

...
I THOUGHT
SHE WAS AN
ILLUSION...

WHEN IT
HAPPENED

—
THIS IS
BECAUSE
OF WHAT
HAPPENED
IN HAKONE.
ISN'T IT?

ASL

WHAT?

-

NOTHING...

...REGARDLESS
OF ITS OWN
WILL, I WISHED
YOU WOULD
BE LIKE
THAT

FLOWING
INSIDE THE
TIME THAT
CULTIVATES
IT...

LIKE A
FLOWER...

...THAT
BLOOMS
SLOWLY.

YOU
CARE
ABOUT
HER...

STUPID
JERK...

...HAD
THOUGHT
THAT YOU
SHOULD
CHANGE.



DO
YOU KNOW
WHAT THEY
CALL THAT
FEELING?

...SO
MUCH
THAT
YOU
CHASE
ILLUSIONS
OF
HER



BUT
THAT'S...

BE SAVED
ALREADY,
DAMMIT

...NOT...

...UM...

...SOMETHING
I CAN SAY...





I'M SURPRISED.

CHUNK

ME, TOO...

THE RUMORS
WERE TRUE.
YOUR LITERARY
KNOWLEDGE IS ALMOST
UNHEALTHY...H

INFLUENTIAL

THIS ENTHUSIASM!

IN THIS WORLD

HUFF

HUFF

YOU'RE
INCREDIBLE,
KARASAWA-
KUN!!

I'VE NEVER
MET ANYONE
WHO COULD
KEEP UP WITH ME
THIS LONG WHEN
TALKING ABOUT
BOOKS...!!

MY
COLLECTION IS
AMAZING...!

OH, SURE
THING.

PLEASE
LET ME BEHOLD
YOUR FIRST
PRINTINGS
SOME TIME!!

KARASAWA-
SA...

ANY

SEE YOU
LATER...

I'M
SORRY.

YEAH
YOU WERE
WORKING??!

ALL
CRAP.

IT'S THE
OFFICE.

NO!

IT'S
NOTHING...

UH...
NO.

NNP

DON'T
GIVE
UP!

SAY IT
NOW!!

I'VE
BEEN
WRITING
SOMETHING
LIKE A
NOVEL, AS A
HOBBY...!!

I--

I...

I...

MEAN,
UM...

WOULD
YOU READ MY
STORY SOME
TIME...?!

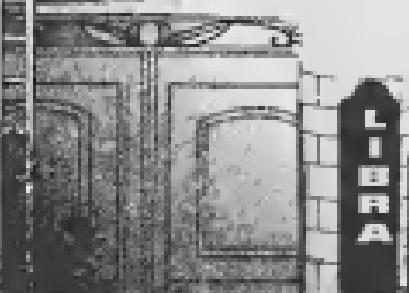
W--

I THINK
IT'S FORWARD
OF ME TO ASK
A PROFESSIONAL
EDITOR SOMETHING
LIKE THIS,
BUT--

I-I--

CHAPTER 10, PART 2

BUT WHEN I
REPLACED THE
LIGHT, THE ELECTRIC
CABLE TWISTED OFF,
AND WHEN I PUT
IN A REQUEST
FOR REPAIRS,
THEY TOLD ME,
“WE DON’T HAVE
ANY OPENINGS
UNTIL TOMORROW.”
THE SUN WAS
ALREADY SETTING,
AND MY ROOM AND
MYSELF GREW
DARKER AND
GLOOMIER. BUT I
HAD TO WORK ON
THE MANUSCRIPT
EVEN FASTER TO
MAKE UP FOR THE
DELAY FROM THE
NIGHT BEFORE. SO
I WORKED USING
THE LIGHT FROM MY
TRACING BOARD,
MY BROKEN LAMP,
AND THE LIGHT
FROM THE HALLWAY
I IMAGINED. “...THIS
IS MARTHA...”
AND ENDURED.







I'M
SURE
SHE'LL
GET
BACK
ON
HER
FEET.





THAT'S
A VERY
INTERESTING
OUTFIT YOURS
WEARING.



I WAS
WATCHING
YOU...
...FOR A
WHILE, BUT
YOU NEVER
NOTICED
ME.

I
DON'T
KNOW IF
YOU DON'T
CARE, OR
IF YOU'RE
LIVE... JUST SLOW...



...IN AS
NARROW
A WORLD
AS EVER.



IT'S
BEEN
A LONG
TIME...

KEN

THUNK

YOU WRITE
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS...

...SO I
WONDERED
WHAT YOUR
FACE LOOKED
LIKE NOW.

BUT YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
A BIT.

...AND GET
DRUNK BY
YOURSELF
AGAIN,
RIGHT?

...CURL
UP IN A
BALL...

...THROW
IT ALL
AWAY...

...YOU'RE
JUST GOING
TO LIST ALL
THE REASONS
THAT IT'S NO
GOOD...

...AFTER
ALL YOUR
TURNING THINGS
OVER IN YOUR
HEAD...

BUT
IN THE
END...

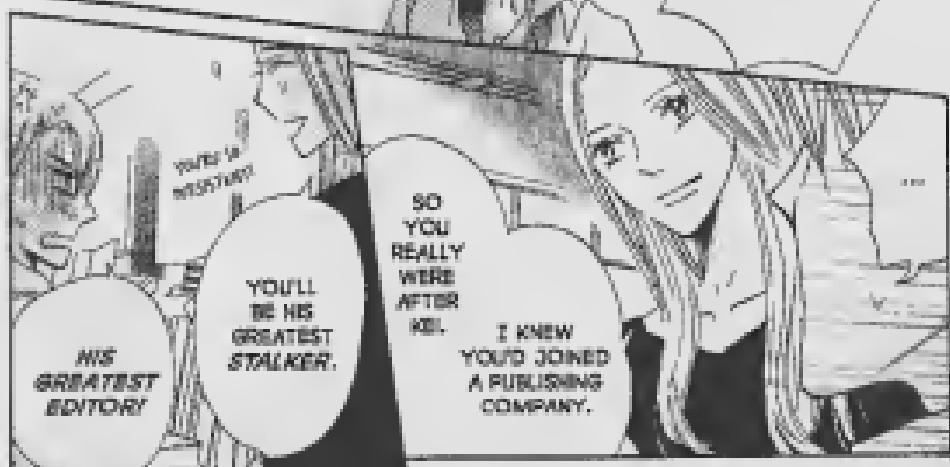
YOU
SEEMED TO
BE THINKING
ABOUT
SOMETHING.





I THOUGHT OF CALLING
FOR YOU AT THE ENTRANCE,
BUT SOMEONE HAPPENED TO BE
GOING THROUGH THE DOOR
JUST THEN, AND IT LOOKED LIKE
I COULD GET IN, SO I DID.

HOW DID YOU
GET IN HERETY?



YOU
DISAPPEARED
FIRST,
SHIN-KUN.

THAT'S
BIG TALK
AFTER YOU
DISAPPEARED
LIKE THAT.

AND
HERE WE
HAVEN'T SEEN
EACH OTHER
IN TEN
YEARS.

THAT'S
NOT VERY
NICE...

WHY
ARE YOU
HERE...?

...JORN

...REALLY
EXISTS?

IS IT
TRUE THAT
THE HEROINE
OF HANA...

HEY,
SHIN-KUN.



SHOULDN'T IT

ARE
YOU GOING
TO SEE
KEI?

...GOING
TO RUIN KEI
AGAIN...?

ARE
YOU...

WORTHLESS
FROM THE
BEGINNING.

I
DON'T
RUIN
HIM.

HE
WAS...

EVEN
IF YOU
DO SEE HIM,
IT WON'T DO
YOU ANY
GOOD.











STUPID
IDIOT...!!

WHY...

THAT



AND
THE
FLOWERS
LOOKED
LONELY
SOMEHOW

THE
MOON
WAS
VERY
BRIGHT

ROOK

THAT
NIGHT...

ignoring the season and the flow of the story...
shot of the book Christmas bonus manga
~ winter of chouko's third year in high school ~











Will changes pull Chouko and Kei apart?



With their feelings for each other growing more complicated, Kei decides he needs to really get away from Chouko for a while and agrees to take a trip to the hot springs with his publisher. Chouko, meanwhile, has hooked up with a literary club that just happens to idolize Kei. When they find out he's going on a trip, they decide they are going to follow him. It's all a bit too much for Kei, who returns home and tries to lose himself in his work. But a mysterious woman from Kei's past makes an appearance and wants to whisk him away again. How is Chouko going to react?



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